



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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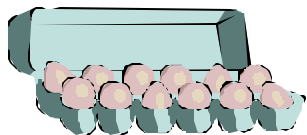
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In Chicago, New York, Boston and New England prices were unchanged. Elsewhere, values were unchanged to lower. The market tone was reported as cautiously steady with traders closely watching further market developments. Demand was irregular but mostly fair. Inventories were down at most locations from a week earlier, and mediums were reported as short in the Southern area. Overall, supplies were generally sufficient for reduced post holiday needs. Breaking stock supplies were adequate to fully adequate for the light and generally unaggressive demand. Spent hen offerings were ample for normal to reduced processing schedules.

NORTH ATLANTIC Prices were unchanged to lower in Philadelphia, in Boston and New England prices were unchanged. The market tone was cautiously steady. Retail demand was irregular with weekend clearances reported as fair to good. Supplies were usually sufficient for current needs but not long. Breaking stock supplies were at least adequate from regular sources, and demand for additional product was limited as traders cautiously watched further market developments. Light type fowl were ample for the light demand.

NEW YORK Prices were unchanged. The market tone was cautiously steady. Demand was irregular with traders watching further market developments. Weekend clearances were reported as moderate to good. Supplies of all sizes were adequate but not burdensome.

MIDWEST* Prices in Detroit and major Wisconsin and Ohio cities were mostly lower for all sizes. Prices in Chicago and to producers in Iowa-Minnesota-Wisconsin were unchanged. The trade sentiment was barely steady to weak for the post holiday market. Retail demand was light to fair. Food service movement was mostly moderate. Supplies were adequate to fully adequate for current needs. Central States nest run breaking prices were unchanged. Demand was light to moderate with offerings adequate to fully adequate. Trade sentiment about steady to at times barely steady.

**Starting May 1, these comments will be included in the Midwest Eggs formerly North Central Shell Eggs. The Midwest Eggs will be released daily.*

CHICAGO Prices for all sizes unchanged. The trade sentiment steady to weak. Retail and food service demand mixed and ranged from light to good and best movement where features are planned or in progress. Supplies generally adequate.

SOUTHERN In Atlanta and Florida prices were sharply lower. Elsewhere prices were unchanged. The market tone was cautiously steady. Retail demand was irregular following the holiday weekend. Supplies were about adequate to adequate, with mediums in the best position. The average price on Grade A or better white cartoned large eggs delivered to volume buyers in the Southern region for the week ending April 21 was 62.62 cents, 39 cents less than the week before and 7.20 less than the same week last year. Breakingstock supplies were fully adequate for the light demand. Offerings of light type fowl were ample for processors' needs.

WESTERN Prices 6 cents lower on all sizes throughout the region. The Pacific region inventory was 37% lower than last Monday with California down 43% and Oregon-Washington-Utah down 26%. Retailer demand fairly good. Holiday clearances generally met trade expectations with offerings in fair balance with current needs.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A AND US GRADE A WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR OR WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST CITIES			
Boston (Brown)	93-95	85-87	59-61
New York	70-72	67-70	49-52
Philadelphia	68-72	66-70	48-51.5

SOUTHERN CITIES			
Atlanta (1) (2)	60-61	58.5-60	41-42
Jackson (1)	70-71	67-68	50-51
Major Louisiana Cities (1)	67-80	64-78	47-61

MIDWEST CITIES			
Chicago	58-63	57-62	41-46
Detroit (2)	55-58	54-57	37-40
Major Ohio Cities (2)	59-65.5	55-64	38-46
Major Wisconsin Cities	59-66	57-64	41-48

WESTERN CITIES			
Houston (1)	74-76	75-78	53-56
California(Grade AA)(1)(3)	93	89	75

(1) - Prices reported weekly
(2) - Delivered Warehouse
(3) - Reported Invoice prices

CALIFORNIA Prices 6 cents lower on all sizes. The California inventory was 43% lower than last Monday. Retailer demand fairly good as pipelines were refilled after the holiday. Holiday clearances close. Small invoice price 55.

PRICES INVOICE, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	104
EXTRA LARGE	93
LARGE	89
MEDIUM	75

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RANGE		NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RANGE
JUMBO	229-289	JUMBO	239-269
EXTRA LARGE	219-279	EXTRA LARGE	209-239
LARGE	149-219	LARGE	179-239
MEDIUM	187-199	MEDIUM	139-179

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT

Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending April 28, 2000 will decrease by 53 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending April 21, 2000 were 497,759 cases which was 67 percent above the prior week and 25 percent above estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	469,380	28,379	497,759
% change from the prior week.....	+79	-22	+67

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 17 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Prices unchanged. Demand was mostly light to moderate with offerings adequate to fully adequate. Floor stocks balanced to adequate. Trade

sentiment about steady to instances barely steady.

PRICES PAID TO 11:00 A.M., MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

RANGE	MOSTLY	
NEST RUN	30-32	30
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	15-18	

CENTRAL STATES AREA:
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Prices were generally unchanged. Offerings were at least adequate with current schedules full. Finished sales were slow. Trade sentiment was no better than steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 24-APR-00

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	8.75-17.5	10-13	11.15

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Majority trading was unchanged to slightly higher when compared to a week earlier. Buyers remain unaggressive for offerings that were fully adequate for processors needs. Processing schedules were normal to heavy. Finished product was slow to clear at some locations. Market conditions were irregular but usually barely steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 24-APR-00

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	7-16.5	8.25-11	10.54
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT- AM Apr 17, 2000

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		NO	SO	SO	5-Area		
	Northeast	CENT	CENT	Atl	Pacific		
Jumbo	Curr Wk	5.6	15.2	10.0	13.9	7.8	52.5
	Change	-2.6	-4.4	-0.4	-4.5	-2.8	-22%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	16.4	23.6	9.0	24.5	13.3	86.8
	Change	-9.8	-6.3	-3.1	-17.6	-6.1	-33%
Large	Curr Wk	24.6	59.1	42.3	49.9	64.1	240.0
	Change	-16.3	-35.9	-31.8	-60.9	-79.2	-48%
Medium	Curr Wk	9.6	19.6	11.4	12.9	19.7	73.2
	Change	-3.3	-3.3	-3.0	-4.7	-6.3	-22%
Small	Curr Wk	3.3	5.4	3.0	3.2	4.2	19.1
	Change	-1.4	0.4	-0.8	0.4	0.9	-3%
Misc	Curr Wk	4.1	20.2	10.0	12.9	6.7	53.9
	Change	-0.2	0.5	1.2	-3.2	0.5	-2%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	24.4	41.3	12.3	24.0	39.4	141.4
	Change	-4.0	4.8	0.3	-7.1	0.4	-4%
Total	Curr Wk	88.0	184.4	98.0	141.3	155.2	666.9
Percent	Change	-30%	-19%	-28%	-41%	-37%	-32%
TOTAL		Number of Cases		Percent Change		Number of Cooperators	

Shell Egg 666.9 -32% 170

Shell Egg Breaking Stock 406.8 2% 39

Total Shell Egg 1073.7 -22% 209

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 170 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

CANADIAN EGGS MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN CENTS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 10, 2000

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	162	158.9	149.9	108.9

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING APRIL 10, 2000 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	126	126	116	76

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — DAILY WTD AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR APRIL 21, 2000

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS								TOTAL LOADS							
10.50								7.25								17.75							
SE				NE		MW		LOADS		SC		NW		SW		LOADS							
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST						
GNR W 1	—	—	42.50	44.00	—	—	1.50	GNR W 1	—	40.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	.50						
GNR W 3	—	—	30.00	31.50	—	—	1.00	GNR W 4	—	25.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	.50						
GNR W 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	.50	GL W XL	—	—	—	—	—	48.00	1.00	—	—						
GL W XL	—	—	49.00	51.00	39.00	—	2.75	GL W LG	—	—	—	—	—	44.33	1.50	—	—						
GL W LG	—	—	31.00	—	38.00	—	2.00																
GL W MD	—	—	24.00	25.00	—	—	2.00																
GL W SM	—	—	21.00	23.00	—	—	1.00																
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	28.00	29.50	7.00																

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 04/15/00-04/21/00

CURRENT LOADS								65.75	FUTURE LOADS								39.50	TOTAL LOADS								105.25					
SE				NE				MW				LOADS				SC				NW				SW				LOADS			
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST				
GNR W 1	45.67	45.00	42.50	46.80	—	42.33	12.50	GNR W 1	—	40.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.50				
GNR W 2	—	—	—	—	—	43.00	1.00	GNR W 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00					
GNR W 3	—	—	33.33	35.17	—	—	4.00	GNR W 4	—	25.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.50					
GNR W 4	—	—	—	—	23.38	25.69	4.50	GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47.50	2.00					
GL W J	—	—	—	—	36.00	—	2.00	GL W XL	—	43.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47.15	7.75					
GL W XL	—	51.00	49.67	52.83	41.26	—	18.75	GL W LG	—	43.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46.25	5.25					
GL W LG	—	51.00	45.50	52.00	38.31	—	10.00	GL W MD	28.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.14	3.50					
GL W MD	—	50.25	32.00	33.50	24.50	—	19.00	GL BR LG	35.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42.00	1.00					
GL W SM	—	—	19.67	21.33	—	—	3.00																								
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	27.75	30.88	18.00																								
NRBS - 39	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.00																								

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

NUMBER OF CASES OF EGGS SHIPPED TO CALIFORNIA 04/09/00 - 04/15/00

Origin State	AR	CO	IN	IA	MN	MO	OH	OR	SD	TX	UT	TOTAL
N. CA	0	0	0	780	0	0	0	1,087	0	0	0	1,867
C. CA	0	0	0	2,294	4,090	0	0	480	0	0	1,675	8,539
S. CA	1,720	2,463	1,620	7,124	5,700	2,845	4,169	0	1,200	1,515	4,482	32,838
TTL STATE	1,720	2,463	1,620	10,198	9,790	2,845	4,169	1,567	1,200	1,515	6,157	43,244

SHIPPED TO MILITARY: 0

NEW ENGLAND

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, BROWN EGGS LOOSE, AT FARM, CENTS PER DOZEN.

JUMBO	EX-LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
112-115	74-77	66-69	40-43	16-19

DETROIT EGGS

PRICES TO FIRST RECEIVERS, CASES INCLUDED, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, 30 DOZEN CASES, WHITE EGGS LOOSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

JUMBO	EX-LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
63-66	54-60	52-57	35-40	23-27

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
38-40	23-25	13-15

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS

PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
76.55	58.52	42.18

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

ON HAND	4/17/00	4/10/00	4/19/99
PACIFIC COAST	449	375	159
LOS ANGELES	338	262	38

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS PRICES DELIVERED TO RETAILERS, GRADE A STORE DOOR APRIL 18, 2000:

	CARTONS	WTG AVG
EX-LARGE	149-155	153.43
LARGE	143-150	148.21
MEDIUM	124-135	132.33
SMALL	105-109	106.01

Receipts from the mainland: 4/9/00-4/15/00
30-dozen cases 3,617

Receipts from the mainland: 4/2/00-4/8/00
30-dozen cases 3,598

CHICKEN AND EGGS

U.S. egg production totaled 7.22 billion during March 2000, up 2 percent from the 7.05 billion produced in 1999. Production included 6.10 billion table eggs and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 67.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2000 averaged 331 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during March 1999. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,182 eggs, down slightly from 2,185 eggs in March 1999. March 2000 contained 23 weekdays and four Saturdays, equal to March 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2000 totaled 331 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 331 million layers consisted of 271 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 57.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2000, averaged 70.9 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 71.0 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.79 billion eggs during March, up 2 percent from March 1999. The average number of layers during March, at 311 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

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